



CELEBRATE THE ARTS! October is National Arts and Humanities Month, a time when the country collectively celebrates culture in America. This year, Highland Main Street will be calling attention to the celebration with banners placed on street lamps throughout downtown.

GAZEBOEXPRES



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • OCTOBER 2012

HIGHLAND ONE STEP CLOSER TO OWNING TOWN THEATRE

The town cleared another major hurdle in its plan to acquire the Town Theatre when the Sept. 28 deadline to redeem the property passed without action by the long-time owners of the shuttered movie house.

"This is one of the most important landmarks in Highland. The Town is a piece of our history," Council President Bernie Zemen said. "The goal was to ensure that the theatre is restored – both inside and out – and reopened."

Highland bought the theatre at the County Commissioner's tax sale a year ago for \$16,791.92 – the amount of back property taxes and penalties owed. Indiana law provides former owners the opportunity to redeem properties within one year.

Zemen, and fellow Councilman Dan Vassar, gave kudos to Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro, who was instrumental in the acquisition, and the Redevelopment Commission for taking action.

"There are so many great things happening in downtown right now and getting the theatre back up and running will be another huge step in the right direction," Vassar said. "The Town

INTERESTED IN THE TOWN?

The town is making a list of volunteers who have stepped forward to help out as well as individuals interested in acquiring the building. **For more details, call Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro at (219) 972-7598 or email cpetro@highland.in.gov.**

Theatre was as important to movie-goers in the region as it was to us here in Highland."

While no decision has been made regarding the facility – whether the town will retain ownership and run the theatre, lease it or sell it – the consensus is that it will remain a theatre.

There are still several more steps that must be taken before the town owns the theatre outright and financing issues that must be resolved.

By law, a final determination hearing will be held in December in Lake Circuit Court. If the court finds in the town's favor, the deed would be transferred to Highland early next year. If the town becomes the new owner, the Council and Redevelopment Commission will need to acquire financing to rehab the building. 🐾

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR VW TAX ABATEMENT

Six months after VW of Orland Park announced its intent to locate a new dealership in Highland, the town has taken steps to advance the project.

In September, the Town Council voted to designate 9601, 9553 and 9545 Indianapolis Blvd. as an economic development target area and set a hearing for Oct. 8 to receive public comment on a 10-year property tax abatement, which has been requested on the three parcels.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said Joseph Hoobyar, president of the Illinois VW dealership, is eager to move forward on the project, which will entail facade changes along with expansion

at the site. The property will house the dealership as well as a service area.

The construction phase is expected to add 30 jobs. When completed, the dealership expects to have 30 employees in the first year, with an additional 10-20 employees added in year two.

Construction is expected to more than double the value of the property from \$1.5 million to \$3.25 million.

If approved, the property tax abatement will apply only to the value of the new construction. The owners will continue to pay property tax on the existing value of the three properties. 🐾

TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

North Township's Dial-a-Ride and Highland's Triple A Express will receive grant dollars from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Committee to expand transportation options for those left stranded after Hammond-based EasyGo ceased operation in June.

Dial-a-Ride will receive \$1.92 million over the next three years, dollars North Township Trustee Frank Mrvan said will be used to buy a fourth bus, as well as hire an additional driver and scheduler.

Triple A Express will be paid up to \$100,000 by NIRPC for providing rides for both ambulatory and non-ambulatory passengers.

OPERATION SOS BLITZ

Collections for the holiday blitz of Operation SOS - Support Our Service members - is under way.

Items such as Pop-Tarts, tea, coffee, cocoa, lip balm, ramen soups, canned meats, nuts, candy, dried fruit, beef jerky, gum, microwave popcorn, travel-sized games and playing cards should be dropped off at Lincoln Center or Town Hall before Nov. 21.

Cash donations are welcome and will be accepted at Town Hall. All checks should be made payable to Operation SOS, which is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit.

NEW JEWELRY STORE

The September Pop-Up Art Gallery was so successful the space was leased by the end of the event.

RHO Jewelry Store is planning to open in the retail space at 2647 Highway Ave., the site of the former Avon store.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said RHO is a different type of jewelry store, which will offer custom jewelry. The owner plans to make necklaces, bracelets and rings in the front of the stores where customers and window-shoppers can watch.

INTERESTED IN RETAIL SPACE? If you are a business owner and are interested in Highland retail space, please contact Cecile Petro at (219) 838-1080.

FALL LEAF COLLECTION

Fall leaf collection begins on Monday, Oct. 15 and will conclude the second week in December. The insert in this issue of the Gazebo Express contains the dates for leaf collection in your neighborhood.



FINAL MARKET DAYS

From fruits and vegetables to artisan crafts, it's your last chance to catch the weekly street market this month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **OCT. 6, 13 and 20** at Main Square Park.



WARD 1

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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

Anyone who thinks this year's campaign nastiness takes the cake for presidential politics might be surprised to learn it doesn't even come close.

It turns out in the campaign of 1800, Thomas Jefferson's hatchet man had the audacity to call then-president John Adams "a fool, criminal, tyrant and hypocrite." Adams hatchet man, in turn, called Jefferson "a mean-spirited, low-lived fellow."

Such is the stuff of historical mud-slinging when the prize is the highest position in the land.

Those stories and more will be told in vivid detail when humorist, historian and storyteller Terry Lynch comes to town for a one-night appearance.

Hosted by the Highland Historical Society, President Sue Douthett said the group wanted to bring a sense of history and humor to this year's presidential race while showcasing the town museum's new space at Lincoln Center.

MUDSLINGING, MUCKRAKING AND APPLE PIE: PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS, THE GREAT AMERICAN PASTIME

Hear stories of the mudslinging and muckraking of the Jefferson v. Adams campaign of 1800, the Jackson v. Adams of 1828, the Lincoln v. Douglas of 1860, and Grant v. anyone! Terry Lynch will also highlight the 1912 election of Teddy Roosevelt when he started his own political party.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **OCT. 25**

WHERE: Rooms 116 and 118 in Lincoln Center

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Call Sue Douthett at (219) 922-1047 or (219) 838-9935 for more information!

"We have brought Terry in to do programs before, but this one is his special take on the campaigns that have been waged for president," she said. "Terry is very entertaining. He is someone who has that special ability to bring history to life." 🍷

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TOWN LEADERS: ALEX BROWN

PARKS AND RECREATION SUPERINTENDENT OVERSEES 23 PARKS, MORE THAN 250 ACRES

One year after Alex Brown was hired as recreation director for the parks, the Board named the Homewood native head of the department.



BROWN

That was in 1998.

Shortly after becoming superintendent of the parks department, Brown took stock of the town's recreational spaces and began sketching a plan to improve facilities.

With 23 parks and more than 250 acres of park land, Brown said there is always a list of worthy projects awaiting funding.

Next on the list is repaving the existing bike paths as construction wraps up on the Grand Avenue culvert and bike path extension, which will provide easy access to the trails at Wicker Park.

The jewel in the crown – a new Lincoln Community Center – was completed earlier this year to applause from the community, which has for the first time, a town-owned-and-operated fitness center.

Despite any headaches along the way, Brown said

ABOUT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

THE STAFF: 17 full-time employees

THE PARKS: Highland 23 parks feature picnic shelters, playgrounds, baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields, volleyball courts, nature areas and beautiful walking paths. Check out the parks website for a complete list of locations and amenities.

THE ERIE-LACKAWANNA TRAIL: This 4-mile trail is great for walking, jogging, biking and skating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114

Lincoln Center was the project of his dreams.

"We could not have built a new Lincoln Center without the support of the Park Board, the Town Council and the community. We had thousands of people who signed petitions in support of the bond issue that paid for construction," he said.

"I love that Lincoln Center is a multi-generational facility with something for everybody. The flow of the building now works as it was intended." 🍷

HOLIDAY CHURCH BAZAARS

If it's the first week of October, you can be sure a team of women at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church will be harvesting tomatoes and jalapeños from a garden on the church property they lovingly tended all summer.

The produce they pick for the salsas, jalapeno jellies and zucchini relish is all organic and destined for sale at the annual bazaar where it will find itself in gift baskets and onto holiday tables.

The women call themselves the Grace Notes and have made the annual bazaar a focal point 45 weeks out of the year.

"Our church has had a bazaar every November for decades and we are not alone. Our Lady of Grace in Highland and St. Thomas More in Munster have bazaars on the same day and we work together to promote each other," explained Elaine Von Almen, who heads up the Grace Notes. "A few years ago, we decided to add foods, like bean soup and cookie mixes and some jams

and jellies. By noon, it was all gone. Since then, we have added food items each year and two years ago started planting our own vegetables and fruits."

The Grace Notes use an area behind the church on Ridge Road, which they till in the fall, supplementing the soil with coffee grounds saved from the Sunday social hour and vegetable and fruit peelings.

"The garden has been a big hit," Von Almen said. "As soon as the last frost is behind us, we start planting tomatoes, jalapenos and sweet bell peppers and go from there. This year we added our own raspberries so we'll have to see how they do."

The women, who gather Wednesday evenings don aprons, get busy peeling and chopping and then get to work catching up with each other's lives. "This isn't work for us: It's fun," Von Almen said. "This is a wonderful group of women who support and encourage each other as we work." 🍁

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

This holiday bazaar features homemade crafts, baked goods, jams and jellies from produce grown in the church's garden.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOV. 3**

WHERE: 3711 Ridge Road, Highland

INFO: Call (219) 838-5313

OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

The 41st Annual Christmas Bazaar features quilts, holiday decorations, raffles and bakery items including nut rolls, poppy seed rolls and strudels.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **NOV. 3;**

9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **NOV. 4**

WHERE: 3025 Highway Ave., Highland

INFO: (219) 838-2901

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH

The 27th Annual Holiday Bazaar features arts, crafts, bakery items and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **NOV. 3-4**

WHERE: 8501 Calumet Ave., Munster

INFO: (219) 836-8610



TOWN BUDGET HEARING

If you want to learn more about the town's 2013 spending plan, the Town Council has a pair of meetings scheduled in October to discuss and adopt next year's budget.

- A public hearing is scheduled to be held at 7 p.m. Monday, **OCT. 15.**

- The council plans to adopt the budget at 7 p.m. Monday, **OCT. 29.**

The town's general fund has been budgeted to be about \$6.2 million. The fund pays for expenses, such as salaries, utilities and health insurance.

BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

The Indiana Department of Transportation is expecting all lanes of traffic on Indianapolis Boulevard to be open by mid-November.

It is likely there will be ongoing work on either side of the bridge into December that is not expected to interrupt traffic.

At the same time, the town is continuing its work to improve and landscape the area just east of the new thoroughfare to beautify the area that serves as a gateway to Highland.

FACADE PROGRAM GROWS

While Apex Construction & Remodeling makes rapid strides on construction of a new facade for its building at 2743 and 2747 Highway avenues, Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said five other downtown business owners have expressed similar interest.

The Redevelopment Commission has offered to ante up as much as 30 percent of the cost of facade improvements. The town's portion of the payment cannot exceed \$30,000.

"If all of these businesses move forward, downtown Highland is going to be sporting a whole new look" Petro said. "The grant program has spurred interest in making this happen."

MISS SAIGON COMES TO TOWN FOR ONE-NIGHT ONLY

For one night only in November, Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High school will be transformed for production of the Broadway musical, Miss Saigon.

Featuring professional actors, directors and designers, the production is a collaboration between Highland High School, the South Shore Orchestra and Carnegie Arts Center.

Called the "The Unity Event," the mission is to

merge the professional with the academic to allow students to experience a large-scale, theatrical production regardless of their school's resources.

Miss Saigon is a story of doomed romance involving an American soldier and a bar girl in 1970s Vietnam. It is the 11th longest-running Broadway musical.

The Unity Event is funded, in part, through a \$10,000 grant from the Foundations of East Chicago.

MISS SAIGON UNITY EVENT

This large-scale production brings together students and professional actors, directors and designers.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Friday, **NOV. 2**

WHERE: Monbeck Auditorium at Highland High School

TICKETS: \$14 in advance, \$20 at door, \$50 for top seats and meet-and-greet.

INFO: Visit www.theunityevent.org.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Do you enjoy shopping for rare items such as comic books, sports cards, Hot Wheels, autographed memorabilia and other collectibles? Roger Parker from P & P Collectibles will promote a card show in conjunction with the Highland Community Garage Sale. Register to sell your household items, toys, books, and more!

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **OCT. 13**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

VENDOR FEE: \$26.75 per day for 10' X 10' space. Tables and chairs are not provided.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

ANNUAL PUMPKIN SALE

If you haven't had time to shop for pumpkins, head over to the Middle School Booster Club's annual fund-raiser. Pumpkins of all shapes and sizes will be available for purchase.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **OCT. 13**

WHERE: Highland Middle School Circle Drive

INFO: Email the club at Imgoin247@aol.com.

MARCHING INVITATIONAL

Area high school marching bands will gather at Highland High School for a great night of music and drill performances.

WHEN: 6 p.m. **OCT. 13**

WHERE: Highland High School football field

ADMISSION: \$5

INFO: Email Highland Band Booster Frank Postulka at postulka@att.net.

YOUTH BASKETBALL

The deadline to register your boy or girl for Highland Youth Basketball is this month. Students in Grades 1 through 6 will play a 10-game season while learning the fundamentals of basketball. Games are on Saturdays and practice on weekdays. Teams are determined by a player draft with the coaches. All players receive a T-shirt.

DEADLINE: Register by **OCT. 19**

FEE: \$45

PRACTICE: Begins week of **NOV. 12**

GAMES: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **DEC. 1 - FEB. 16**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

INFO: Call Matt Jillson at (219) 838-0114 or email mjillson@highland.in.gov.

TABLE TENNIS TOURNEY

Nationally ranked table tennis players from around the country will gather at Lincoln Center for a two-day competition that has cemented Highland's reputation as a destination for those who like to play and watch the lightning-fast game of ping pong.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. **OCT. 27-28**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

INFO: Call (574) 261-4545.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

TRICK-OR-TREAT

Trick-or-treat hours are from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 31. Looking for a safe and fun trick-or-treat alternative? New Life Christian Reformed Church will host trunk-or-treat in the church parking lot, 3010 Ridge Road. For more information about the church event, please call (219) 838-0506.

TRI KAPPA BOO BLAST

Join us for a costume-filled afternoon of games, storytelling, snacks and more for all kids 10 and under. Then that evening, a Boo Blast dance will feature a costume contest, games and snacks for all 5th- and 6th-grade Highland and Munster students.

WHEN: 3 to 5 p.m. **OCT. 20;** dance from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse

INFO: Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Lincoln Center and through Tri Kappa members. For more information, email booblast2012@gmail.com.

JACK-O'-LANTERN FESTIVAL

Bring your best carved pumpkin to the Main Square Gazebo along with a \$2 entry fee for Kiwanis' annual salute to autumn. Vote for your favorite pumpkin. Bring the family for some good old-fashioned Halloween fun.

WHEN: 5 to 8 p.m. **OCT. 29-30**

WHERE: Main Square Park Gazebo

INFO: Call Jeannine at (219) 923-2360 or highlandkiwanis@yahoo.com.

JACK-O'-LANTERN JOG

Join the Chamber of Commerce for a fun 5K race for adults, kids and canines. All participants are encouraged to wear costumes. Businesses in the Halloween spirit will hand out treats.

WHEN: 10 a.m. **OCT. 27**

WHERE: Main Square Park

INFO: Call (219) 923-3666 or www.highlandchamber.com.

